

# Marriages & Marriage Dissolutions

## Marriages

In 1999, 20,905 marriages occurred in Kansas, an increase of 2.5 percent from the 1998 total of 20,403 marriages. Table 53

The greatest number of marriages (3,965) occurred in Sedgwick county, but Geary county had the highest marriage rate of 20.4 marriages per 1,000 population. Hodgeman county had the fewest marriages (7) and also had the lowest marriage rate of 3.1 marriages per 1,000 population.

Table 54 Figure 37

The Kansas marriage rate in 1999 was 7.9 marriages per 1,000 population, which was 10.2 percent lower than the 1989 rate of 8.8. The 1999 rate was 7.1 percent lower than the estimated U.S. rate of 8.5 marriages per 1,000 population. Table 1 Figure 39

More wedding ceremonies were performed in June (12.1 percent) than any other month in 1999, with July and May being the second and third most popular months. Figure 41

First-time marriages for both partners made up more than half of the marriages in Kansas for the first time since 1985. In 1999, 50.8 percent of all marriages involved first-time partners. Table 56 Figure 2

Kansas couples are delaying marriage. In 1989, 14.4 percent of the brides and 5.5 percent of the grooms were under 20 years of age. However, in 1999, 11.0 percent of the brides and 4.2 percent of the grooms were under 20. Table 57

The average age of all brides in 1999 was 29.4 years and that of grooms was 31.6 years. Women marrying for the first time averaged 24.2 years while first time grooms averaged 26.4 years. Of those persons who remarried during 1999, women were, on the average, 38.1 years old and men were 41.2 years of age. Figure 42

## **Marriage and Marriage Dissolutions (Cont.)**

### **Marriage Dissolutions**

In 1999, 9,926 marriage dissolutions (9,633 divorces and 293 annulments) occurred in Kansas, a decrease of 4.2 percent from the 1998 total of 10,363. Table 55 Table 59

The greatest number of marriage dissolutions (2,770) occurred in Sedgwick county, but Coffey county had the highest marriage dissolution rate (14.2) per 1,000 population. Clark, Gove, Graham, and Hodgeman counties each had 3 marriage dissolutions in 1999. Gove, Graham, and Johnson counties had the lowest dissolution rate of 1.0 per 1,000 population. Table 55 Figure 38

The Kansas marriage dissolution rate in 1999 was 3.7 marriage dissolutions per 1,000 population, which was 24.5 percent lower than the 1989 rate of 4.9. The Kansas rate in 1999 was the lowest since 1970. Table 1 Figure 40

Kansas has generally reported a higher marriage dissolution rate than the U.S. for most years since 1951. However, Kansas' rate in 1995 (4.3) was lower than the U.S. rate (4.4) for the first time since 1951. The Kansas rate in 1999 (3.7) was 9.8 percent lower than the U.S. rate (4.1). Figure 40

The ratios of marriages to divorces for Kansas and the U.S. were both roughly 2 to 1, with Kansas at 2.1:1 and the U.S. at 2.4:1. Table 54 Table 55

The most common age-group of wives involved in marriage dissolutions in 1999 was 25-29, while for husbands it was the 35-39 age-group. For couples of the same age-group, the most common age-group was 25-29. Table 58

The average age at marriage dissolution in 1999 was 35.5 years for wives and 37.8 years for husbands, as compared to 33.0 years for wives and 35.5 years for husbands in 1989. Figure 43

In 1999, 43.2 percent of marriages ending in divorce or annulment lasted four years or less. Table 59

There were 9,457 minor children affected as a result of marriage dissolutions in 1999. At least one minor child was reported in over half (52.3 percent) of the marriage dissolutions. Table 60 Figure 44